than friends. The success of our *World in Figures* was due to some extent to his endorsement. I was a newcomer in Germany. An attempt of an individual author to cover a great variety of subjects in a single study was contrary to German scientific tradition, perhaps even more so than in the United States. The name of Bortkiewicz as the editor of the series was a guaranty that such an attempt might be made and that the author was qualified to undertake the experiment.

The Russian edition was discontinued after the second volume. The Soviet government forbade importation of the series into Russia. Our royalties shrank accordingly to about one fourth of what we would have received from both editions. But the German royalties and the fees for articles we both wrote for scientific magazines enabled us to live comfortably. Working intensively ten months of the year, we could afford long vacations. We spent them in the high mountains, usually the Alps.

IN THE MOUNTAINS

We discovered the high mountains by accident. After our first hike along the Rhine, we went to the Black Forest. There we saw patches of snow on the slopes of the Feldberg. Our trip took us to the Bavarian Alps and the Tyrol, where we fell under the spell of valleys rising from the verdant plain to evergreen forests, rocky gorges, glittering glaciers. Our first ascent was of the Wildspitze, the highest peak in the region. We made it with a guide, with ropes, cutting steps in the glacier wall. The climb was too strenuous for novices, but we were exhilarated by the experience and decided to come back to the Tyrol.

I was approaching forty, and Emma was in her early thirties. We were a little late in starting apprenticeships in mountain-climbing, but we learned the art quickly and the high mountains became our passion. Even now I think that mountaineering is the perfect sport for those who can master it. It demands considerable strain of muscles and nerves, but the rewards for one's effort are lavish.

The mountainous part of the Tyrol, useless for farming, was the domain of the German-Austrian Alpine Society. The shelters and tourist hotels that chapters of the society had built were open to anyone who could reach them. The entire region was organized as a playground for lovers of nature, with shelters separated by six- or eight-hour walks; trails were cut in the rocks, dangerous stretches secured with ropes or cables. One could wander for two weeks or more from shelter to shelter without ever descending to the lowlands.